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**me·di·um**  **Pronunciation Key** (mē'dē-əm)  
*n. pl. me·di·a* (-dē-ə) or *me·di·ums*

1. Something, such as an intermediate course of action, that occupies a position or represents a condition midway between extremes.
2. An intervening substance through which something else is transmitted or carried on.
3. An agency by which something is accomplished, conveyed, or transferred: *The train was the usual medium of transportation in those days.*
4. *pl. media* Usage Problem.
  - a. A means of mass communication, such as newspapers, magazines, radio, or television.
  - b. **media** (*used with a sing. or pl. verb*) The group of journalists and others who constitute the communications industry and profession.
5. *pl. media* Computer Science. An object or device, such as a disk, on which data is stored.
6. *pl. mediums* A person thought to have the power to communicate with the spirits of the dead or with agents of another world or dimension. Also called **psychic**.
7. *pl. media*
  - a. A surrounding environment in which something functions and thrives.
  - b. The substance in which a specific organism lives and thrives.



unit

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u·nit

n.

**Pronunciation Key** (yoo'nĭt)

1. An individual, group, structure, or other entity regarded as an elementary structural or functional constituent of a whole.
2. A group regarded as a distinct entity within a larger group.
3.
  - a. A mechanical part or module.
  - b. An entire apparatus or the equipment that performs a specific function.
4. A precisely specified quantity in terms of which the magnitudes of other quantities of the same kind can be stated.
5. Medicine. The quantity of a vaccine, serum, drug, or other agent necessary to produce a specific effect.
6.
  - a. A fixed amount of scholastic study used as a basis for calculating academic credits, usually measured in hours of classroom instruction or laboratory work.
  - b. A section of an academic course focusing on a selected theme: *a unit on Native Americans*.
7. The number immediately to the left of the decimal point in the Arabic numeral system.
8. Mathematics.
  - a. The lowest positive whole number; one.
  - b. An element of a ring with a multiplicative inverse.